

CHAPTER X

STUDY MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

This chapter describes the management structure being used for the Los Vaqueros Expansion Investigation (LVE). The public involvement and stakeholder outreach strategy for the study also is described.

STUDY MANAGEMENT

The study management structure for the LVE consists of a Study Management Team (SMT), Project Coordination Team (PCT), and Agency Coordination Work Group (ACWG).

- **Study Management Team** – The SMT consists of study managers from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and Contra Costa Water District (CCWD). The SMT provides overall guidance for the study, and ensures that PCT members have sufficient resources and direction to complete the various tasks required. More importantly, the SMT is responsible for briefing higher-level agency staff and decision-makers on study progress, key issues, and schedule status. The SMT also is responsible for addressing the views and comments of other agencies.
- **Project Coordination Team** – The PCT consists of technical leaders and other specialists who direct and coordinate the completion of work products in their respective disciplines, based on guidance from the SMT. The PCT includes discipline leaders for engineering, environmental compliance and analysis, plan formulation, modeling, public involvement, economics, and others as needed. PCT members attend team meetings and manage the incorporation of results and work products into the overall study.
- **Agency Coordination Work Group** - The ACWG consists of representatives from Federal, State, and local governmental agencies and stakeholder groups. The ACWG is briefed by the study team on a regular basis, reviews study materials and documents, and provides comments and input over the course of the study. Participants in the ACWG include the following: Alameda County Water District, Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, Contra Costa County, CCWD, California Department of Fish and Game, California Bay-Delta Authority, DWR, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Environmental Protection Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service, Santa Clara Valley Water District, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Zone 7. The ACWG holds breakout meetings on specific subjects that may not be of interest to the entire group, such as modeling and environmental studies, to discuss issues in more detail with PCT members.

Other focused work groups are ongoing and new work groups will continue to be established as needed to assist in accomplishing the study. These technical work groups focus on specific study areas such as designs and costs, environmental studies, plan formulation and economics, and others. The work groups are primarily composed of LVE project staff, but may include other experts or specialists.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement has been ongoing throughout the LVE. Public meetings, newsletters, and briefings will continue to mark major milestones of the feasibility study. A Customer/Stakeholder Feedback Group (CFG), comprising local business, government, and special interests, was created to provide guidance and feedback during the LVE. CCWD also maintains a Web site (<http://www.lvstudies.com>) for information dissemination and sharing; solicitation of comments; event postings; and communication among team members. Public involvement efforts for the project have progressed in three main phases, described briefly below.

The first phase focused on development of the Draft *Project Concept Report*, which provided general project overview materials and an outline of future steps for the project. Activities included the following:

- LVE mailing list developed
- Public Involvement Plan developed
- Interactive Web site developed
- Two CFG meetings held
- Los Vaqueros Reservoir tour conducted for the CFG
- Two rounds of public meetings held in Concord and Sacramento
- Fact sheets and “Frequently Asked Questions” materials created
- Eighteen CCWD Board meeting presentations
- Over 30 presentations to elected officials, local organizations, and community groups.

In September 2002, the project moved into development and publication of the Draft *Planning Report*, which included preliminary information and analysis of LVE facilities, benefits, impacts, and institutional issues. In addition to ongoing public outreach, this phase also focused on project updates for relevant Federal and State agencies (see previous description of the ACWG). Activities included the following:

- Five CFG meetings held
- Five ACWG meetings held
- Five ACWG Technical Breakout Sessions held
- Four rounds of public meetings held in Concord, Antioch, and Sacramento
- Over one hundred presentations made to elected officials, local organizations, and community and stakeholder groups

- Briefings held with mayors, city managers and wholesale customers
- Twenty topic-specific fact sheets and an informational brochure developed
- Bill inserts describing LVE developed
- “On Tap” newsletter produced quarterly
- Media briefings developed
- Fourteen CCWD Board meeting presentations
- Public comments tracked and responses made (more than 1,000 comments received)
- Comment and Response Report prepared summarizing and addressing comments received.

Following the successful CCWD customer vote in March 2004, the project moved into the third and current phase of outreach corresponding to public communication and interagency coordination regarding development of the Feasibility Report for the LVE. To date, public involvement activities in the current phase include the following:

- Nine ACWG meetings held
- Thirteen ACWG Technical Breakout Sessions held
- Fifteen presentations made to elected officials, local organizations, and community and stakeholder groups
- Six CCWD Board meeting presentations
- “On Tap” newsletter produced

Public outreach and agency coordination efforts will continue through the remainder of the LVE.

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